

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This application contains claims 1, 2, 3 and 5 through 17. Claims 10, 11 and 14 through 17 were withdrawn from consideration due to an election of species, but are to be rejoined upon a determination that the elected group of claims is allowable. Each of claims 1, 12 and 13 (the independent claims) has now been amended to specify that the thermal reaction of the polymer and enophile are reacted with halogen assistance, as opposed to "in the substantial absence of halogen".

The present claim language, as discussed with the Examiner in a telephone interview conducted on November 9, 2007, is supported by the specification at page 1, lines 25 through 33; the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2; and page 2, lines 24 through 30. These portions of the specification differentiated between lower temperature reactions that relied on halogen-assistance, and higher temperature thermal (or ene) reactions, to which the invention is directed, in which halogen assistance was not needed and advantageously avoided (to reduce the halogen content of the reaction product).

No prior art rejections are presently pending against the claims of the application. Claims 1 through 9, 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, it was noted that each of independent claims 1, 12 and 13 included the phrase "in the substantial absence of halogen". This phrase was interpreted to mean that no halogen or halogenated compounds may be added to the process. It was then noted that, as certain free radical inhibiting compounds described as useful in the invention are halogenated, the claims were unclear. Applicants submit that the amendments of claims 1, 12 and 13, described *supra*, address the noted clarity issue and therefore render moot the Section 112 rejection.

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Based upon the foregoing, applicants submit that the present claims are in proper formal order and claim patentable subject matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejections presented under 35 USC Section 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob M. Levine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

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